Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

18 January 1988

Your Excellency,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 8 January expressing your support, and that of the Islamic Council of Europe, for my statements on the Occupied Territories. I am sorry that I have not been able to reply sooner but I have received over 900 letters - three-quarters of which I am pleased to say are in my favour - and I and my staff are now attempting to reply to them all.

I do not know whether you have seen the article I wrote for 'The Daily Telegraph' on 11 January. This is a comprehensive statement of the Government's policy on the Arab/Israel dispute. I enclose a copy, and I hope you will find it of interest.

Thank you once again for writing. My best wishes for the New Year go to you and the members of the Council.

Yours sincerely

David Mellor

Mr Salem Azzam
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